

Request for Comments
Ft. Douglas Stream Bank Stabilization

The Ft. Douglas Stream Bank Stabilization Environmental Assessment (EA) on the Big Piney Ranger District of the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests is available for review and comments. This project was designed to stabilize an eroding stream bank section along the east side of Big Piney Creek which is 15 feet high, 500 feet long and affects approximately one acre. The project area is located in Northeast Johnson County on Big Piney Creek north of the State Highway 123 bridge at Ft. Douglas, Township 12 North, Range 21 West, Section 20. The Proposed Action and one alternative were analyzed in the EA.

The district ranger has identified the Proposed Action as his preferred alternative which includes the following activities: Install five rock vanes at the site. Each rock vein would be approximately 6 feet tall and approximately 60 feet long. Each vane would be keyed into the bank 20 feet. Locally obtained rock would be used in the construction of the rock vanes.

A triangular “flood bench” would be constructed between the vanes using gravel obtained on site. This flood bench would be approximately 3 feet deep at the bank and would extend into the channel approximately 12 feet. Locally obtained willows and sycamores would be transplanted into the “flood bench” and around the edges of the rock vanes and their keys. Shrubs would be planted along the top of the bank. Work on this site would be conducted during the low-flow portion of the year.

Although a preferred alternative has been identified, a final decision on which actions to implement has not been made. You can help in making this decision by providing comments on the Draft EA. The EA and accompanying maps may be viewed at the district offices located in Hector and Jasper, AR., or by going to the Ozark-St. Francis NFs website;

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/osfnf/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelprdb5212180>.

Your comments must be project-specific and postmarked or received within 30 days beginning the day after publication of this notice in Russellville’s *The Courier*. You may mail your comment(s) to Timothy E Jones, Big Piney Ranger District, 12,000 SR 27, Hector, AR 72843. Verbal or hand-delivered written comments must be received during our normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mon-Fri. Comments may be mailed electronically to our office, in a common digital format, at: comments-southern-ozark-stfrancis-bayou@fs.fed.us. This project decision could be objected to if public comments are received (36 CFR 218).

A copy of the EA may be viewed on the Ozark-St Francis National Forests website or additional information may be obtained by contacting Mike Mulford at the Big Piney-Jasper District Ranger’s office in Jasper, AR phone 870-446-5122 ext.5136.